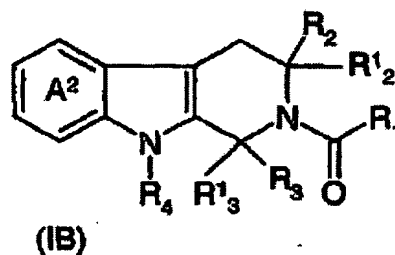
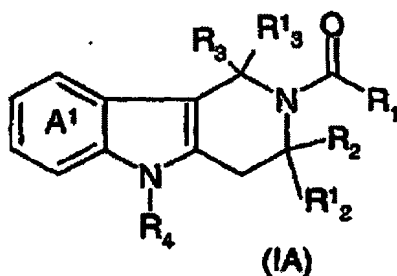


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (IA) or (IB), or a salt, hydrate or solvate thereof



wherein fused rings A¹ and A² are optionally substituted;

R₁ represents a radical of formula -(Alk¹)_n-(X)_m-(Alk²)_p-Z wherein

Z represents a radical of formula -C(=O)NH(OH), or -N(OH)C(=O)Y

wherein Y represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, a phenyl or cycloalkyl ring,
or a monocyclic heterocyclic radical having 5 or 6 ring atoms;

Alk¹ represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C₁-C₆ alkylene radical,

Alk² represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C₁-C₆ alkylene, C₂-C₆ alkenylene or C₂-C₆ alkynylene radical which may optionally contain an ether (-O-), thioether (-S-) or amino (-NR^A-) link wherein R^A is hydrogen or C₁-C₃ alkyl;

X represents an optionally substituted phenyl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring;
and

n, m and p are independently 0 or 1, provided that at least one of n, m and p is 1 and the length of radical -(Alk¹)_n-(X)_m-(Alk²)_p- is equivalent to that of a hydrocarbon

chain of from 2-10 carbon atoms;

R^1_2 is hydrogen and R_2 is (a) an optional substituent or (b) a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1, Alk^3 represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene or C_2-C_6 alkynylene radical and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or R^1_2 and R_2 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring;

R^1_3 is hydrogen and R_3 is (i) an optional substituent or (ii) a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1, Alk^3 represents an optionally substituted, straight or branched, C_1-C_6 alkylene, C_2-C_6 alkenylene or C_2-C_6 alkynylene radical and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic group; or R^1_3 and R_3 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring; and

R_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl.

2. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the group Z in R_1 is a hydroxamate group $-C(=O)NHOH$ or N-hydroxyformylamino group $-N(OH)C(=O)H$.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the length of the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p-$ in R_1 is equivalent to a chain of from 2 to 10 carbons, or 4 to 9 carbons, or 5 to 8 carbons.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein the length of the radical $-(Alk^1)_n-(X)_m-(Alk^2)_p-$ in R_1 is equivalent to a chain of 6 carbons.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, in radical R_1 , Z is $-(C=O)NH(OH)$, P is 1 and Alk^2 is $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-NH-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(OH)-$, $-CH_2CH(F)-$, $-CH_2C(F)_2-$, or $-CH_2(C=O)-$.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein in the radical $-(\text{Alk}^1)_n-(\text{X})_m-(\text{Alk}^2)_p$, Alk^1 and Alk^2 when present independently represent an unsubstituted, unbranched, C_1 - C_6 alkylene, C_2 - C_6 alkenylene or C_2 - C_6 alkynylene radical.
7. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 6 wherein in the radical $-(\text{Alk}^1)_n-(\text{X})_m-(\text{Alk}^2)_p$, Alk^1 and Alk^2 when present independently represent $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_2-$.
8. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein, in the radical $-(\text{Alk}^1)_n-(\text{X})_m-(\text{Alk}^2)_p$, X when present represents an unsubstituted phenyl ring.
9. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the linker radical $-(\text{Alk}^1)_n-(\text{X})_m-(\text{Alk}^2)_p$, m is 0 and n, ~~and/or p, or both~~ is/are are 1.
10. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the linker radical $-(\text{Alk}^1)_n-(\text{X})_m-(\text{Alk}^2)_p$ is an unsubstituted, unbranched, saturated hydrocarbon chain of 4 to 9 carbons, or 5 to 8 carbons, or 6 carbons.
11. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_2 is hydrogen and R_2 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl, n- and iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- and di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or methylsulfonylamino.
12. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_2 is hydrogen and R_2 is a radical of formula $-(\text{Alk}^3)_r-\text{Q}$ wherein r is 0 or 1; Alk^3 is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$, $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{C}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{CCH}_2-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{W}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{W}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{WCH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{WCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{WCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{WCH}_2-$, or $-\text{WCH}_2\text{CH}_2-$ where W is $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, $-\text{NH}-$ or $-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)-$; and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted

phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thienyl, furanyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, piperidinyl, or morpholinyl.

13. (Original) A compound as claimed in claim 12 wherein Q is phenyl, 4-pyridyl, or pyrimidin-2-yl.

14. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_2 and R_2 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

15. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_3 is hydrogen and R_3 is trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl, n- or iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- or di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, or methylsulfonylamino.

16. (Currently Amended) A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_3 is hydrogen and R_3 is a radical of formula $-(Alk^3)_r-Q$ wherein r is 0 or 1; Alk^3 is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH=CH-$, $-CH=CHCH_2-$, $-CH_2CH=CH-$, $CH_2CH=CHCH_2-$, $-C\equiv C-$, $-C\equiv CCH_2-$, $-CH_2C\equiv C-$, $-CH_2C\equiv CCH_2-$ or $-CH_2W-$, $-CH_2CH_2W-$, $-CH_2CH_2WCH_2-$, $-CH_2WCH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2WCH_2CH_2WCH_2-$, or $-WCH_2CH_2-$ where W is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NH-$ or $-N(CH_3)-$; and Q is hydrogen or an optionally substituted phenyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, thienyl, furanyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, piperidinyl, or morpholinyl.

17. A compound as claimed in claim 16 wherein Q is phenyl, 4-pyridyl, or pyrimidin-2-yl.

18. A compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 wherein R^1_3 and R_3 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form an optionally substituted carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring.

19. A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R_4 is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or n- or iso-propyl.

20. A compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein optional substituents in the fused rings A¹ and A² are selected from trifluoromethyl, methyl, ethyl n- and iso-propyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy, amino, mono- and di-methylamino, mono- and di-ethylamino, nitro, cyano, fluoro, chloro, bromo, and methylsulfonylamino.
21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
22. ~~The use of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 20 in the preparation of a composition of claim 21 containing an effective amount of the compound for inhibiting the activity of an HDAC enzyme~~
23. ~~The use as claimed in claim 23 for the inhibition of~~ composition of claim 22 wherein the activity is HDAC1 activity.
24. ~~The use as claimed in claim 22 or claim 23 for the inhibition of~~ composition of claim 22 wherein the HDAC activity, is ex vivo or in vivo.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Canceled)
27. A method for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of cell-proliferation disease, polyglutamine disease, neurogenerative disease, autoimmune disease, organ transplant rejection, diabetes, haematological disorders and infection, which method comprises administering to a subject suffering such disease an effective amount of a compound as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1.
28. A method as claimed in claim 27 wherein the disease is cancer, Huntingdon disease, or Alzheimer disease.